

November 2nd, 7:00pm
Zoom meeting

Attendees: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller,
Members of the public: Bob Atchinson, Michael Billingsly, Rich Phillips

Agenda:

- Update on RAMP money for the town:
 - Rich Baker provided a brief update that they are seeking quotes for a new water heater, and some smart thermostats. Waiting to hear back from EVT about if these are an eligible use for the money.
 - Rich mentioned that he is aware of some options related to hot water heaters and volunteered to share that with Chris Martin on this.
- Update from Michael on the dam
 - Michael provided a refresher on the status of things over the past few months. This includes: the emergency management committee in Plainfield being dissolved; Michael requesting of the PUC that he be allowed to continue with the case separately from Plainfield; this being granted, and an attorney being assigned to help Michael.
 - Michael had a list of things which were needed to improve safety related to the dam. This would include an updated emergency management plan, improved warning system for both towns, and more. The attorney sent these along to GMP. GMP responded to these points, agreeing with some and disputing that some of them were necessary or required. This mostly seemed to Michael to be GMP dragging their feet until the current construction was completed in October.
 - The PUC has now said that they will help with this case, and Michael is preparing to submit a filing that they will need to adjudicate. Michael plans to send this to the Energy Committee mailing list, and he would appreciate it if people could review it and submit comments back to him.
 - Michael believes that there is a new precedent being established at the federal level, due to the dam failures which occurred in the last few years in other states. This requires evaluating risk of weather events in a different context due to climate change.
 - Because GMP has agreed to improvements to the emergency spillway (for the 2021 construction season), and the service spillway has already been fixed (in the 2020 season), Michael is feeling like many of the original safety concerns have been addressed. He indicated that if GMP would make improvements to the emergency management plan, and the alert system, he would likely drop his efforts.
- Michael asked about the status of the solar project at Twinfield.
 - Rich wasn't totally sure. Bob indicated that he heard from Luke (forget what organization) that an RFP had been put out from the school about this.
 - Rich thought it would be a good time to ask Jamie for an update on how things are going. Bob volunteered to reach out to Jamie about this.

- Michael said he would follow up once the Twinfield solar project is further along to see if there is potential for a battery backup project there.
- Bob spoke with the Chimney Sweep, who mentioned that the efficient woodstove rebate is back, though reduced to \$500.
- Level 2 charger for the OSC
 - Rich reached out to get more info about the Cabot charging project. Bob indicated that the Cabot selectboard shot this down due to administrative issues with how it is paid for, how much time would be required to deal with it, etc.
 - Bob asked where the plug would go. Could it just be “poked out” of the wall of the OSC, or would a pedestal be needed, or something else? Rich thought this would be a good thing to investigate.
 - Bob also mentioned there may be some grants available as part of the COVID related funding, which could go towards this.
 - Michael also mentioned there may be some federal funding.
 - Rich thinks the first step is to work out some rough numbers, and a plan for how this might work with the money reserved to pay for the electricity used. Rich volunteered to work on a first draft of this. Nick will review and help where possible.
 - Bob mentioned the idea of if there is any excess solar that is being lost due to not being used, this could be argued to use towards this charging cost.
 - Bob also mentioned there are ways to avoid the monthly service charge from having a separate meter. Basically add a non GMP meter, and this can be used to figure out the usage and price.
- Rich mentioned there was a zoom last weekend sponsored by the Randolph Energy Committee. This was a Jon Copans driven online event. Rich mentioned that he is going to get access to the video, and he will be sending this around to promote it. Jon also mentioned that he would be willing to try and coordinate a similar event for Marshfield, if we want to.
- Rich mentioned that he thought the chairs for the different RAMP subcommittees send letters of thanks to Jon and the org about that. Rich said he would draft something and send it around.